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Environment and sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mrs. Irena Zubčević (Croatia), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.11

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 56/197 of 21 December 2001 and 57/253 and 57/260 of 20 December 2002,

Reiterating that the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

Recalling the commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and to the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,[2]

Reaffirming the urgency of recognizing, subject to national legislation, the rights of local and indigenous communities that are holders of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and, with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices, developing and implementing benefit-sharing mechanisms, on mutually agreed terms, for their use,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[2] See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 44.

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Expressing its deep appreciation for the generous offer of the Government of Malaysia to host the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which are to be held in Kuala Lumpur from 9 to 20 February and from 23 to 27 February 2004, respectively,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;[3]

2. *Notes* the outcome of the open-ended intersessional meeting on the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity up to 2010, which was held in Montreal, Canada, from 17 to 20 March 2003;[4]

3. *Notes also* the outcomes of the eighth[5] and ninth[6] meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which were held in Montreal from 10 to 14 March and from 10 to 14 November 2003;

4. *Reiterates* the commitment made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to negotiate within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, bearing in mind the Bonn Guidelines,[7] an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;[8]

5. *Reiterates also* the commitment made at the World Summit to promote the wide implementation of and continued work on the Bonn Guidelines as an input to assist the Parties when developing and drafting legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing as well as contract and other arrangements under mutually agreed terms for access and benefit-sharing;[9]

6. *Invites* the countries that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity;

7. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[10] on 11 September 2003, and the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and invites the parties to the

[3] A/58/191.
[4] UNEP/CBD/COP/7/5.
[5] UNEP/CBD/COP/7/4.
[6] UNEP/CBD/COP/7/3.
[7] Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilization (decision VI/24 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity).
[8] See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 44 (o).
[9] Ibid., para. 44 (n).
[10] See UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex; see also www.biodiv.org/biosafety/protocol.asp.

Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Protocol to consider doing so;

8. *Emphasizes* that the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety will require full support from parties and relevant international organizations, and further urges parties to facilitate capacity-building in biosafety in developing countries, including countries with economies in transition, as well as to develop and strengthen national capacities for making the required information available to and interacting with the Biosafety Clearing House;

9. *Invites* countries to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its thirty-first session in 2001;[11]

10. *Stresses* the importance of harmonizing the reporting requirements of the biodiversity-related conventions while respecting their independence legal status;

11. *Encourages* developed countries parties to the Convention to contribute to the relevant trust funds of the Convention, in particular so as to enhance the full participation of the developing country parties in all its activities;

12. *Urges* parties to the Convention to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions;

13. *Underlines* the need for increased financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention by developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, and welcomes in this regard the successful and substantial third replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;

14. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[12] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[13] and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

15. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue reporting to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention, including on its Cartagena Protocol;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

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[11] C 2001 REP, appendix D.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[13] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.